

Minutes  
Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee  
April 24, 2006

**Committee Members Present:** Russ Brubaker, Chair, Joyce Moty, Philippe Jeoffroy, Lisa Chun, Neal Adams, Doug Dunham, Don Harper, Terry Holme, Cheryl Klinker, and prospective Committee members Gwen Colwell and Sonia Singh

**Staff:** Ken Bounds, Catherine Anstett, Patti Petesch, David Jensen, Idris Beauregard

**Committee Business:** The meeting agenda was approved, as were the minutes from the March 27, 2006 meeting. Russ Brubaker introduced 2 prospective new members, Gwen Colwell and Sonia Singh. Ms. Colwell lives in the New Holly neighborhood and Ms. Singh lives on Capitol Hill. Committee members introduced themselves.

**Public Comments:** There were none.

**Youth/Teen Development Fund:** Patti Petesch, Parks Manager of Youth and Teen Programming, described the Youth/Teen Development Fund to the Committee. The purpose of the Fund is to increase the quality and quantity of youth and teen programs for youth ages 5-18 years old. The Fund creates partnerships through grants with other agencies and organizations by requiring a 50% match in funds from the program sponsor.

\$150,000 is awarded annually through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Criteria for making the awards include:

- Programs that serve immigrant, refugee, low income, or other underserved populations;
- Programs must be organized to focus on one or more of these seven program areas: citizenship and leadership, arts and culture, physical fitness, outdoor and environmental, race and social justice, personal development and education, and job readiness;
- Programs proposed must include key youth development strategies such as outlined in the Development Assets, Dr. Paul Heckman's report "Key Principles and Effect Program for Youth;"
- Programs serve geographic neighborhoods that are underserved;
- Partnership provides at least a 50% match in total funding needed and is demonstrated to be legitimate; and
- Budget shows good cost per participant ratio.

2006 Awards went to the 18 programs.

Idris Beauregard, Parks Teen Development Leader, spoke about the Stevens Pass Program that he managed and that received a grant from the Youth/Teen Development Fund. The program took teens, who otherwise would not have had the opportunity, to Stevens Pass for skiing and snowboarding lessons. Improved physical fitness, self confidence and interest in the outdoors were goals of the program. Survey results of

participants showed that the program overwhelmingly reached these goals. Ms. Petesch, who directed a ski school for 20 years, noted that it is difficult to afford skiing or snowboarding, and one aim of the program is to keep the teens participating until they are old enough to get a job doing it.

Committee member Neal Adams asked staff to describe the typical teen in the program. Mr. Beauregard responded that a typical participant probably lives with grandparents and spends a lot of time in Parks Late Night program.

Committee Chair Brubaker asked if the Young Shakespeare Workshop, which received a grant from the Fund, put on performances for the public. Ms. Petesch responded that they performed at Denny Middle School and at a celebration at the Seattle Center.

Ms. Singh asked if participants in one sponsored program were able to learn about other opportunities. Ms. Petesch responded yes, that this information was shared.

Committee member Harper commented that he liked the Stevens Pass program and the fact that it took kids to a strange environment and he complimented Stevens Pass on their involvement. He asked whether training was an aspect of the program. Mr. Beauregard responded that job training was included.

Committee member Holme asked what would happen with the Youth/Teen Development Fund after the Levy expires. Ms. Petesch replied the teen program is fully funded by the Levy and that staff are providing input into Parks post-Levy strategy discussions. Superintendent Bounds noted that the Levy provided for a phased transition from Levy funds to Parks funds only for the maintenance Levy program.

**Senior Programs:** David Jensen, Parks Specialized Programs Manager, presented the Committee with a briefing on Senior Programs that are funded by the Levy. The goals of the programs are to promote physical activity, healthy lifestyles and social engagement for people age 50 and better. Twenty-six percent of Seattle's population is between 45 and 60.

The two most important things that make people stay healthy are physical activity and being socially engaged. "Lifelong recreation programs" is the theme of the program for those 50 and better. There are 6 staff, one in each geographic sector of the City. The 5 guiding objectives of the Senior Adult Programs are:

- Programs will be elder-friendly;
- Programming will support improving or maintaining health status, social engagement and physical activity;
- Senior Adult Programs will work with other senior adult providers, City departments, faith communities, businesses, social service agencies and health care organizations to advocate change that improves services within the Seattle community for senior adults;
- Senior Adult Programs will provide meaningful opportunities for senior adults to work and volunteer in the Parks and Recreation system; and

- Senior Adult Programs will provide appropriate staff, quality programs and accessibility to senior adult programs.

The fourth bullet is especially important because the senior population is working longer, so the aim is to offer job and volunteer opportunities.

Accomplishments for 2005 include approximately 120 program participants per day in 2 Food and Fitness programs; the hiring of several older workers, including those from Vietnamese, Latino, Ethiopian and Korean ethnic groups; Senior Games athletic competition; and the Sound Steps Walking Project which operates at 39 sites and has 300 walkers. The Senior Theater Program at Langston Hughes Theater traveled to schools and various centers showcasing personal stories from 5 varied seniors.

Mr. Holme asked about attendance at Senior Theater performances. Mr. Jensen responded that about 100-150 attended each performance, with better attendance coming when they traveled to off-site locations.

Mr. Brubaker asked what Mr. Jensen thought the capacity was to do more with seniors based on changing demographics, and questioned if the program could grow, how would it. Mr. Jensen responded that there is a tremendous opportunity to engage seniors as this sector of the population is growing. Superintendent Bounds stated that growth would be related to partnerships and that if there were more resources, the program could do more.

Mr. Brubaker asked how outreach to seniors was accomplished. Mr. Jensen replied that Parks creates a brochure regarding the Senior Adult Programs that is widely distributed and that program specialists also do outreach. He acknowledged they could be doing more. Being out in the senior community is also effective outreach, and Mr. Jensen noted that just that morning he cooked breakfast for 100 red-hatters. He stated a goal to develop relationships with City employees and other large organizations that include seniors.

Ms. Moty asked whether the programs were at all community centers. Mr. Jensen replied that about 60% of the community centers have some senior programs, but noted that community Centers are not very senior-friendly right now and that senior programs are working to gain parity with youth and other types of programming. There are no senior centers so the community centers need to provide the senior programs. Superintendent Bounds stated that the community center capacity is in the morning and the challenge is to use the time effectively. He also pointed out to the Committee that the Levy funds for Senior Adult Programs enhances an existing program. It is not a new Levy program like the Teen Development Leaders.

Mr. Harper asked whether Parks pools have defibrillators. Mr. Jensen they are applying for a grant to get them in all of the facilities.

Mr. Holme said his mother, aged 92, just moved to Seattle and found great information about senior programs on the Parks web site and found it very easy to use.

**Acquisition – Morgan Substation:** Donald Harris, Parks Acquisition Manager, briefed the Committee regarding a proposed acquisition in the Morgan Junction neighborhood of West Seattle. The April 24 briefing follows from the briefing staff gave to the Committee on this issue in February.

The Levy identified the Morgan substation as the target site for acquisition and development. However, City Light has decided not to surplus the property and also the site is very small and not well-located for a park. In February staff advised the Committee that we were exploring alternative sites with the community and would bring the project back to the Committee for a vote on a project scope change when an alternative site had been identified.

After additional research, Parks submitted a bid on the property purchased by the Monorail project in Morgan Junction. The Parks bid was contingent on the results of the Parks public process. On April 11, approximately 75 people attended a public meeting in Morgan Junction and consensus was reached to approve the Parks recommendation to pursue acquisition of the Monorail property at 6401 California Ave. SW.

Further, one of the bidders on the Monorail project received the public meeting flyer and suggested a possible partnership with Parks. At the April 11 public meeting, the partnership idea was also supported by those in attendance. Through the partnership, the Beveridge Place Pub would purchase approximately 8,000 square feet of the 17,081 square foot site, and Parks would purchase the remaining northern portion of approximately 9,000 square feet. If Parks is unable to secure the Monorail property, staff will return to the Committee when another site has been identified.

Mr. Brubaker stated he knows the pub owners and they are good people. Ms. Klinker asked what the future uses for the park site would be. Mr. Harris responded that the park would primarily be green space.

Mr. Holme asked if Mr. Harris thought it would be possible to get an alternative site, identified as Site C. Mr. Harris responded that Parks probably couldn't afford the entire site.

**Mr. Dunham made a motion to support the recommendation for a project scope change to the Morgan Substation project, to pursue acquisition of all or a portion of the Monorail property at 6401 California SW instead of the substation site. Ms. Moty seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of all in favor, none against.**

**Acquisition Update:** Mr. Harris continued briefing the Committee on additional acquisition activities. Regarding property on Thornton Creek, Parks has engaged the Cascade Land Conservancy to get an ownership option at a cost of \$600,000. Parks will be applying to the State for an Interagency for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) grant and will try to match that grant with King County Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) funds. If

Parks is unsuccessful in raising these funds, theoretically the Cascade Land Conservancy could sell the property.

Superintendent Bounds stated that the risk if Parks is not successful with the IAC grant would be \$300,000 and that the backstop is the Prop Parks Levy. He noted further that Parks has already spent substantially in West Seattle. Property there has been available and affordable. Mr. Harris stated that Cascade Land Conservancy does not yet have a deal for the property option.

Regarding East Capitol Hill, Mr. Harris reported that Parks is trying to acquire property owned by Group Health. Staff went to the community to say we couldn't accomplish a deal at a planned site, and the community identified 4-5 additional sites. Parks is focusing on a site on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue East between Howell and Denny, but it might be a reach financially.

Mr. Brubaker asked if there was progress in the University District. Mr. Harris responded that there is pressure for an acquisition at University Heights, but that it is not really timely or feasible; so, Parks is looking at expanding Christie Park.

Mr. Dunham commented that a decent park at University Heights would be a good thing for the community because the area is now all concrete. Mr. Harris responded that, while the Mayor was sympathetic to the communities' interest in University Heights, the project was just not coming together. Mr. Bounds stated that the School District might know by summer or early fall if it will sell, lease or hold on to the University Heights property.

Regarding the International District, Mr. Harris reported that Parks explored expanding Hing Hay Park but there are unwilling sellers. Condemnation is being considered, but it is unlikely. We are currently looking into potential sites in the Little Saigon neighborhood. In the Denny Triangle we are looking at co-locating a park with a City Light project. The focus in the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue neighborhood is at 12<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson.

In response to a question from Mr. Holme, Mr. Harris stated that Parks is moving toward a deal or condemnation for property on East John in west Capitol Hill.

**Committee Business:** Mr. Brubaker reported on the tour of Pro Parks sites that the Committee took on April 8. Ms. Moty remarked about the breathtaking views from the Magnolia and Queen Anne parks that were visited, and Ms. Klinker said she found the new Cal Anderson Park phenomenal. Mr. Adams thanked staff for arranging the tour.

Ms. Anstett told the Committee the next meeting is May 22. Ms. Moty reported that City budget meetings were coming up and that the Mayor's policy of replacing trees needs to be funded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

